AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS (THIS LISTING REPLACES ALL PRIOR LISTINGS):

1. (currently amended) A method comprising

in a cell having a first sector and at least one other sector of a cellular wireless communication system,

determining a current state of transmissions in at least one of the other sectors of the cell or a sector in another cell; and

altering the signal-to-interference ratio of at least one user in the first sector of the cell by temporarily reducing ~~transmissions~~ transmission power on a forward link in at least one of the other sectors of the cell or ~~a~~ the sector in another cell, the reducing of the transmission power being dynamically determined ~~in accordance with a pattern that is~~ based on the determined current state of transmissions in the at least one other sector of the cell or the sector in another cell.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 12 in which ~~the~~ pattern is organized in a sequence of time slots and the pattern defines which of the sectors has transmissions turned on or off in each of the time slots.

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which the current state of transmissions includes a status of transmissions scheduled in neighboring sectors in the cell or in one or more other cells.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5 in which the current state of transmissions includes transmission rates of some neighbor sectors.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which the current state of transmissions includes a next time slot usage for one or more sectors.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which the current state of transmissions includes a forward link signal-to-interference ratio of users in one or more sectors.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which the current state of transmissions includes user location.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which the current state of transmissions includes a fairness setting for one or more users.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which the current state of transmissions includes an application type of one or more users or a quality of service level for one or more users.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 in which temporarily reducing the transmissions comprises turning transmissions on and off in selected sectors according to ~~the~~ a pattern.

13. (original) The method of claim 12 in which the pattern includes turning off transmissions in other sectors more frequently to help users having lower communication rates.

14. (original) The method of claim 1 also including arranging a frequency reuse factor of one or higher in the wireless system.

15. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the wireless system comprises lxEV-DO.

16. (currently amended) Apparatus comprising

wireless transmission facilities for more than one sector of a cell, and

control facilities connected to the wireless transmission facilities and configured to:

determine a current state of transmission for one or more of the sectors serviced by the wireless transmission facilities; and

~~determine a transmission pattern for one or more of the sectors serviced by the wireless transmission facilities based on the determined current state of transmissions; and~~

alter the signal-to-interference ratio of at least one user in a sector of the cell by temporarily reducing ~~transmissions~~ transmission power on a forward link in at least one other sector of the cell or a sector in another cell, the reducing of the transmission power being dynamically determined ~~in accordance with the pattern~~ based on the determined current state of transmissions in at least one other sector of the cell or the sector in another cell.

17. (original) The apparatus of claim 16 in which the control facilities comprise sector controllers for controlling the wireless transmission facilities for the respective sectors.

18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) Apparatus comprising

a sector controller adapted to control transmissions in a sector of a cell of a wireless communication system and to communicate with other sector controllers in the cell or in one or more other cells to coordinate a temporary reduction of transmission power on a forward link ~~the turning on and off of transmissions~~ in at least one of the sectors, wherein the reduction of the transmission power is dynamically determined based on a current transmission state in at least another one of the sectors.

20-35. (cancelled)

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

estimating a signal-to-interference-and-noise ratio based on information received from the mobile station; and

determining an encoding and modulation scheme for the data packet based on the estimated signal-to-interference-and-noise ratio.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 36 wherein each sector transmits a pilot signal and the received information comprises information indicating a strength of one or more of the pilot signals detected by the mobile station.

38. (cancelled)